

LIBRARY

**CLOWN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



Health Report
for the Year 1942.

WORKSOP
H. P. SIBSONS, PRINTER, 3, POTTER STREET,
1943

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Clown Rural District Council

for the Year 1942.

Printed by Order of the Council.

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B. Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.H.Y.

District Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

W. J. GALLAGHER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Asst. Sanitary Inspector :

J. F. TURNER.

PREFACE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CLOWN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MRS. WOOD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1942.

Apart from scabies the health of the district has remained extremely good; this is remarkable considering we are now in the fourth year of the war.

May I take this opportunity of acknowledging with thanks the assistance received during the year from the Members and Officials of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

“ Dale Close,”

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	13,436
Rateable value 1942	...	...	...	...	£72,324
Sum represented by a Penny-rate 1942	...	...	...	...	£276

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As stated in previous reports the social conditions are mainly industrial, the chief occupation of the inhabitants being coal mining and agriculture.

During 1942 the number of evacuees diminished still further but, owing to the bringing back of ex-miners into the coal industry and other causes, the housing shortage still remains very difficult and one of the first public health duties after the war will be the building of houses to relieve the very acute shortage.

The Elm Tree, Amber House and Amber Vale Hostels still continue to do good service, although the number of children treated at Elm Tree Hostel, which comes directly under my care, has been less than in previous years. The following 93 cases were admitted into Elm Tree as compared with 134 in 1941.

43	Scabies.
5	Enuresis.
15	Difficult children.
4	Verminous heads.
13	Scabies and verminous heads.
4	Mumps.
1	Dermatitis.
4	Impetigo.
1	Seborrhoea Eczema.
3	Malnourished children.

CHIEF CAUSES OF INVALIDITY IN THE DISTRICT.

Scabies still continues to be the most common cause of invalidity in this area and the Disinfestation Centre at Poolsbrook has been kept very busy. There is no doubt that the disease has increased very considerably as the result of the war but, although there are such large numbers having treatment, the position is more reassuring in that the treatment given is more efficient and cases can be cured rapidly by two or, at the most, three baths.

There has also been an increase in the number of cases of verminous heads amongst children. This is partly due to the fact that large numbers of mothers are on war work and have not the time to look after their little ones properly.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births:—					
	Legitimate	344	168	176	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 20.2
	Illegitimate	17	9	8	
Stillbirths ...	...	...	8	4	4 { Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.7
		Total.	M.	F.	
DEATHS.		160	77	83	{ Crude Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8.8

VITAL STATISTICS—continued.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	—	—
		—	—
	Total ...	—	—

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	19.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			20.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—

The Infantile Mortality figure of 19 is the lowest ever recorded in this district.

The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales is 49 compared with 59, 58 and 53 in the pre-war years of 1936, 1937 and 1938. It is really remarkable that the figure for the whole country is so much lower than it was before the war and speaks well for the health of the people.

In this area during 1942 Heart Disease caused 46 deaths (22 males and 24 females), Cancer 23 (9 males and 14 females), Tuberculosis 4, Syphilis 1, Pneumonia 5 and Bronchitis 6. There were 8 Violent Deaths but not one death occurred from Road Traffic Accidents, diarrhoea (under 2), Measles or Whooping Cough.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1942.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								Rate per 1000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	5.2	49
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	17.3	0.66	13.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted Populations 25,000—50,000)	18.4	0.62	12.1	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.10	4.8	46
London ...	14.0	0.48	13.9	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07	8.6	60
CLOWN R.D. ...	20.02	0.44	8.8	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	—	19

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

No changes or developments have been made in connection with laboratory facilities. The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

				Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Enterica :—						
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A & B	...		...	—	4	4
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.	...		...	—	4	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	6	72	78
Phthisis	...	...	...	2	33	35
Water	...	...	...	—	—	—
Milk :						
T.B. Inoculation sent from Ministry						
of Agriculture	...	...	...	—	—	—
Routine Samples	...	...	...	—	—	—
Methylene Blue Test	...	..	...	—	—	—
Bacterial Content	...	...	...	—	—	—
Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3	9	12
				—	—	—
				11	122	133
				—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Manton Colliery water continues to give satisfaction, the supply is abundant and the quality good, although hard.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new sewers have been laid. The spare ground at all the Sewage Works has been utilised for the production of food.

Closet Accommodation.

No conversions were carried out during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses disinfected :—

a.	Council Houses	...	6
b.	Other Houses	...	8

HOUSING.

No Houses were erected during the Year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There have been no complaints with regard the wholesomeness of the milk produced with or brought into the district.

There are 74 cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, and 68 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

The National Milk Scheme continues to be popular. It is very essential if the nutrition of the children and expectant mothers is to be maintained, that they should have extra milk at a cheap rate.

The consumption of National Dried Milk has gone up, as the difficulty in obtaining other kinds of dried milk increases.

Pasteurization.

Cows milk is a food of exceptional value for the growing child. It contains a well-balanced mixture of fat, carbohydrate, and first-class protein; it is rich in mineral salts, especially calcium and phosphorus; and it contains important vitamins. On the other hand, it is more often infected with germs and more likely to give rise to disease than any other common article of our dietary. Hence arises the double problem of how to improve the nutritional status of the young without spreading milk-borne disease, and how to abolish milk borne disease without lowering nutritional standards.

Above 5 per cent of farms in this country are sending out milk containing tubercle bacilli and above 20 per cent of milk contains brucella abortus which causes Undulant Fever. "Accredited" milk appears to be as heavily infected with

tubercle as ungraded milk, and tuberculin-tested (T.T.) milk is just as heavily infected with *brucellus abortus* as ungraded milk.

Tubercle bacillus and *brucellus abortus* get into the milk from the cows udder ; germs of the typhoid, food-poisoning and dysentery get into the milk either from the fingers of those handling the milk or from water used in washing the cows udders and milk utensils, etc.

In England and Wales between 1,500 and 2,000 deaths from tuberculosis of bovine origin and 400 to 500 cases of Undulant Fever occur each year.

In my opinion, pasteurization is the only way of rendering the milk supply safe for human consumption. Tuberculosis and Undulant Fever could be avoided by the establishment of tuberculin-tested and abortion-free herds. Since about 40 per cent of the cattle in this country react to the tuberculin test, and about one in every 200 cows is excreting tubercle bacilli, the establishment of sufficient T. T. herds to provide liquid milk for the human population would be an enormous task. The only practicable method at present of providing a safe milk supply is by pasteurization.

The tubercle bacillus is destroyed by a temperature of 145 F. in 5 to 10 minutes and other organisms at a less temperature. In pasteurization the milk is kept between 145 and 150 for half-an-hour.

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat is still slaughtered and distributed from the Public Abattoir at Chesterfield. The local allocation depots have been discontinued, and the meat is now allocated from Chesterfield by the local butchers representatives and distributed direct. Owing to the shortage of feeding stuffs, etc., much of the English meat is below pre-war quality.

[illegible]

PREVALENCE OR, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

10 Notifications were received and all the patients were removed to Hospital.

The immunisation proceeded fairly satisfactorily in this area during 1942. By the end of June, 60% of school children and 25% of toddlers were immunised, and at the end of December, the number had increased to 74% and 47% respectively. The estimated number of school children in the district is 2,659, and toddlers 1,336.

Inti-toxin is supplied free to the medical practitioners, and in all cases it is given promptly.

Scarlet Fever.

28 Cases have been notified, and of these 26 were removed. The disease was of a mild type, and the infection was almost entirely amongst school children. There were no deaths.

Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.

2 Cases were admitted into Hospital, and the diagnosis confirmed in both. No deaths occurred.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Only 8 cases of Measles and 6 cases of Whooping Cough were notified.

Dysentery.

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in this area in July, 43 cases being notified and all were children attending a secondary school in an adjoining district. The majority of the cases resided in the parish of Clown, and nearly all became ill between eight and twelve hours after their mid-day meal, which had been cooked and eaten at school. The patients were acutely ill for two days but rapidly recovered. There were no deaths.

I understand the food which caused the outbreak was not definitely traced.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from this disease during the year :—

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...	1		1					
10	...	...				3				
15	...	...		2						
20	...	...					1			
25	...	...		1		1		1		
35	...	..	1	1						
45	...	...						
55	...	..	2	1		1	1	1		
65 and upwards										
Totals	..		4	5	1	5	2	2		

The phthisis death-rate is .49 per 1,000 of the population.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 1 to 4.

TUBERCULOSIS IN WAR-TIME.

Since the commencement of the war there has been an increase in deaths of 12.1% in this country of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. The cause has been attributed to various reasons, such as the evacuation from Tuberculosis Hospitals and Sanatoriums in September, 1939, to make room for expected air raid casualties, with the consequent return to their homes of numerous patients in an infective state, the institution of blackout which by diminishing ventilation increased cross infection and possibly lowers general resistance, the overcrowding in the homes due to destruction of residential property by enemy action, the evacuation of the public which may have lead to billeting in homes containing infective tubercular persons and conversely the introduction of tubercular persons into healthy homes, the evacuation of town populations to the country, with the result that many children previously supplied with pasteurised milk have had to change over to a raw milk supply, and the drinking of tubercular milk, &c.

Also, owing to the demands for more labour, persons who are suffering from the disease and who in peace time would have had little chance of obtaining employment, are being drawn into industry and are multiplying the foci of infection. The average number of employees working in factories has increased, thus augmenting the number of those exposed to tubercle bacilli, and widening the range of infectivity of any tubercular persons working in the factory. Large numbers of persons who before the war were relatively isolated, are entering factories where they meet for the first time, conditions which are peculiar to herd life. Not only are they exposed to more infection, but instead of being housed and fed at home they fend, and often indifferently, for themselves. The general resistance of workers in all callings is likely to

be lowered by an inadequate amount of rest and recreation resulting from hours of labour necessarily increased in order to meet the needs of war, for fatigue has always been held to be one of the most important pre-disposing factors in tuberculosis.

To deal with the situation, it is proposed to take the following steps :—

- (1) The pasteurisation of milk should be extended throughout the Country and where this is not practicable, milk should be boiled.
- (2) Mass radiography by which whole groups of persons can have their chests X-rayed.
- (3) More institutional treatment of Tuberculosis. A good deal is now available, but cannot be used because of the lack of nurses and domestic staff.
- (4) Financial help greater than that obtainable under the National Health Scheme, should be made for persons with Tuberculosis, in view of the long treatment usually required. Re-habilitation should be considered an essential part of the treatment of tubercular persons and arrangements made for the gradual returning to industry of such patients on a basis of part-time or modified work. During such period a supplement to wages should be provided, in order that an adequate standard of living can be maintained by the patient and his family.
- (5) General working conditions. It is of the first importance that continual watchfulness should be maintained upon the working conditions of young employees, particularly in regard to hours of work, transport difficulties, rest periods, factory canteens and hostel arrangements and their relation to sickness absence.

The following is a table giving the number of new cases of Tuberculosis in the Clown Rural District during the last five years :—

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1938	11	6	17
1939	8	6	14
1940	15	6	21
1941	13	10	23
1942	9	6	15

VENEREAL DISEASE.

For years the incidence of Venereal Disease in this district has been very low, but since the commencement of the War there has undoubtedly been an increase in the Country. All over England a widespread drive has been made to make people understand the seriousness of the disease and the necessity for adequate treatment. There is no doubt that clean living and self-control is the chief way to escape infection. Since the commencement of the War there has been laxity in this respect by numbers of people and, consequently, the disease has become more prevalent.

The Government desire that persons should be instructed on the risks of promiscuity and on the duty of seeking early treatment. They have passed a Statute, known as Regulation 33B, making it an offence for persons having Venereal Disease to refuse proper treatment and in certain cases where there is a danger of spreading it to others, as in the case of prostitutes, these persons may be sent to prison.

Venereal Disease—Continued.

There is no doubt that increased recreational opportunities for seamen in ports and for industrial centres, where the workers are living away from home, would tend to check Venereal Disease as these persons, having nowhere particular to go in their off duty, get bored and often resort to alcohol and bad company, There is also no doubt that solicitation as it exists in some large towns is a potent cause of Venereal Disease.

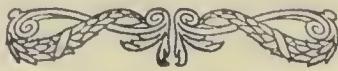
The nearest treatment centre for people residing in this area is at Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital, at Chesterfield. The Clinic is open on the following days :—

Males.
TUESDAYS.
4-30 to 6-30 p.m.

FRIDAYS.
2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Females.
TUESDAYS.
2 to 4 p.m.

FRIDAYS.
11 to 12-30 a.m.



ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Name of Inspector, W. J. Gallagher.

Area of district, 13,436 acres.

Estimated No. of Houses, 4,961.

New houses erected 1942 : (a) By Local Authority—Nil.

(b) By private enterprise—Nil.

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS :				
Defective privies, pail closets & ashpits (not for conversion)	187	89	—	112
Conversion of privies into w.c's	—	—	—	—
Conversion of pail closets into w.c's	—	—	—	—
Conversion of privies into pail closets	—	—	—	—
Defective water closets ...	20	20	—	20
Provision of additional water closets	—	—	—	—
Provision of portable ashbins	141	141	—	138
Dirty closets	5	5	—	5
DRAINAGE :				
No disconnection of waste pipe	—	—	—	—
Defective waste pipe, traps, inlets and drains	37	29	—	29
Drains obstructed	61	43	—	43
OTHER DEFECTS :				
Paving of courts and yards ...	—	—	—	—
Roofs, eaves spouts and down spouts	28	18	—	18
Sinks	14	5	—	5
Insufficient ventilation ...	—	—	—	—

Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector	Number of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
--	--	--	--

OTHER DEFECTS—Continued.

Windows	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dampness	...	...	...	24	17	—	7
Water in cellars	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Water supply	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Over-crowding	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Foul condition of houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Pigsties	...	...	...	2	2	—	2
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Urinals	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nuisances not specified above	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Totals				519	369	—	379

	Number on Register	Inspections made	Notices served	Nuisances abated with or without Notice
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	74	68	—	—
Bakehouses	5	33	—	—
Slaughter-houses	1	225	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses	—	—	—	—
Totals		80	326	—

W. J. GALLAGHER,
Sanitary Inspector.

